

PLANNING CHALLENGE GRANTS

In April 2006, the Rhode Island Division of Planning announced the recipients of eleven transportation planning grants totaling \$538,650. Ten planning challenge grants will go to seven municipalities and three not-for-profit planning organizations for master planning, zoning, feasibility and access management projects focused on particular transportation elements or areas. The eleventh grant will go to a not-for-profit planning organization for a corridor study. Grant recipients include, Aquidneck Island Planning Commission, Town of Bristol, Town of Foster, Grow Smart Rhode Island, Town of Hopkinton, Town of Middletown, Town of North Kingstown, City of Pawtucket, The Providence Foundation, the City of Woonsocket, and Washington County Regional Planning Council. Federal transportation planning funds are providing 80% of the projects' costs and a 20% municipal match is required. Work on these projects is expected to begin early in the summer of 2006, with completion by summer, 2007. A brief summary of each project and contact information follows:

2006 Challenge Grant Project Summaries

NOTE: Project funding amount reflects federal funds only; does not include local match.

Washington County Regional Planning Council

Route 1 Corridor Transportation and Land Use

\$113,650

This project will study the Route 1 Corridor in the towns of Westerly, Charlestown, South Kingstown, Narragansett, and North Kingstown with the goals of preserving rural and scenic landscapes, improving transportation infrastructure, and accommodating economic development, all leading to a better quality of life.

Project contact: [Sue Barker](#), Executive Director, Washington County Regional Planning Council 874-6493

Statewide Planning Staff Liaison: [Vincent Flood](#) 222-1243

Aquidneck Island Planning Commission

Shoreline Drive Corridor Feasibility

\$30,000

This project will begin to assess the feasibility of establishing a Shoreline Drive Corridor along the west side of Aquidneck Island. This travel corridor, which would run along Burma Road and through the Newport Navy Base, would serve as an alternate route to West Main Road, which is often congested.

Project contact: [Tina Dolen](#), Executive Director, Aquidneck Island Planning Commission 845-9299

Statewide Planning Staff Liaison: [Walter Slocumb](#) 222-1237

Town of Bristol

Metacom Avenue Corridor Management Plan

\$50,000

This project will explore access management options along Metacom Avenue from Warren to Roger Williams University with the goals of improving traffic flow, protecting residential property, and preserving scenic resources. Site design guidelines (including landscaping and signage), curb cut management, land use, and zoning will all be studied.

Project contact: [Diane Williamson](#), Planning & Development Director, Town of Bristol 253-7000
Statewide Planning Staff Liaison: [Michael Moan](#) 222-1236

Town of Foster

Growth Centers \$30,000

This project will recommend zoning and design guidelines to implement a village type of growth center along Route 6 that fits the rural and historic character of the town. Affordable housing, traffic circulation, and commercial development will be addressed using new GIS data.

Project contact: [Richard Grant](#), Town of Foster Administrator, Land Development & Subdivisions 392-9203
Statewide Planning Staff Liaison: [Benny Bergantino](#) 222-1755

Grow Smart Rhode Island

Land Use Training Collaborative \$60,000

This grant will provide partial support for the Land Use Training Collaborative for municipal officials and board members. Training topics for 2006 and 2007 will relate to affordable housing, various smart growth strategies, with special focus on the need to integrate land use and transportation planning.

Project contact: [Sheila Brush](#), Program Director, GrowSmart Rhode Island 273-5711
Statewide Planning Staff Liaison: [Derry Riding](#) 222-3949

Town of Hopkinton

Exit I Gateway Plan \$30,000

This project will explore options for developing land around Exit I on Interstate 95 which is one of Rhode Island's most important gateways. This area continues to be under pressure for development, but because of its rural character and lack of public sewers, it does present certain challenges.

Project contact: [Ashley Hahn](#), Town Planner, Town of Hopkinton 311-7770
Statewide Planning Staff Liaison: [Blanche Higgins](#) 222-2079

Town of Middletown

Atlantic Beach District Master Plan \$50,000

This project will examine transportation improvements (automobiles, pedestrians, and bicycles), streetscape enhancements, parking management, and land uses in support of a vibrant and walkable beach district in the southeast corner of Middletown.

Project contact: [Ronald Wolanski](#), Town Planner, Town of Middletown 849-4027
Statewide Planning Staff Liaison: [Michael Ahnrud](#) 222-6446

Town of North Kingstown

Post Road Corridor Plan

\$55,000

This project will study land use controls that would encourage the development of two walkable village-type growth centers (Quonset/Davisville and Reynolds Farm/Oakdale) along the Post Road Corridor and also investigate wastewater treatment issues related to such development.

Project contact: [Jonathan Reiner](#), Town Planner, Town of North Kingstown 294-3331

Statewide Planning Staff Liaison: [Nancy Hess](#) 222-6480

City of Pawtucket

Transit-Oriented Development

\$50,000

This project will explore how a proposed commuter rail station and Transit-Oriented Development on the Pawtucket Central Falls border can be used to revive the downtown area while being sensitive to and providing maximum benefits for the existing neighborhood residents and maintaining the affordable housing stock.

Project contact: [Michael Cassidy](#), Planning & Development Director, City of Pawtucket 724-5200

Statewide Planning Staff Liaison: [George Johnson](#) 222-6490

The Providence Foundation

Cathedral Square/Westminster Street Study

\$30,000

This project will examine the feasibility of re-connecting Westminster Street in the Cathedral Square area of Downtown Providence. This connection would restore vehicular and pedestrian connections and allow for greater utilization of land.

Project contact: [Daniel Baudouin](#), Executive Director, The Providence Foundation 521-3248

Statewide Planning Staff Liaison: [Paul Gonsalves](#) 222-1756

City of Woonsocket

Commuter Rail Feasibility Study

\$40,000

This project will study the feasibility of establishing commuter rail service along the Blackstone Valley freight line between Worcester and Providence and also look at re-establishing a rail connection between Woonsocket and Franklin, MA to the MBTA's Franklin line. Opportunities for transit-oriented development (TOD) and economic benefits will be explored.

Project contact: [Catherine Ady](#), City Planner, City of Woonsocket 767-1418

Statewide Planning Staff Liaison: [Katherine Trapani](#) 222-6479
